

David Holt  
Consumer Energy Alliance  
2211 Norfolk St. #410  
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June 18, 2019

The Honorable Paul Gosar  
Chairman, Congressional Western Caucus  
United States House of Representatives  
2057 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Consumer Energy Alliance Opposes Huffman Amendment Circumventing Established Environmental Regulatory Process

Dear Chairman Gosar,

We appreciate your continued leadership on federal policies ensuring responsible development of domestic resources to ensure affordable, reliable and abundant energy supplies for American families and small businesses.

Responsible resource development requires consistent regulatory reviews, and the NEPA process, while not without its flaws, does provide a reliable and tested process to ensure environmental protection while allowing economic development activities to move forward. We are concerned that the proposed amendment by Rep. Jared Huffman to the House Energy and Water appropriations bill (H.R. 2740), seeking to halt a specific mining project in Alaska, appears to promote the circumvention of this established regulatory process.

As written, the amendment would prohibit the Army Corps of Engineers from finalizing the statutorily required and nearly-complete Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding the proposed Pebble Mine project in Bristol Bay, Alaska. The Army Corps' action would clear the way for the long-delayed project to proceed under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

At a time when regulatory transparency and consistency is improving, it is concerning that there are groups continually trying to circumvent established regulatory policies when the outcome does not meet their perceived political objectives. Consistent regulatory policies that allow responsible resource development benefit American families and US businesses while ensuring the protection of our environment.

NEPA provides a careful, deliberate process for permitting development of US mineral resources. Haphazard application or modification of these regulations, as envisioned by this amendment, will harm our economy while unnecessarily jeopardizing critical environmental protections for current projects

under review and other projects down the road. Due to these concerns, we urge you and your colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Consumer Energy Alliance is a nationwide grassroots organization that supports policies ensuring affordable, abundant and reliable domestic energy supplies. With nearly 300 affiliates and over 500,000 members nationwide, we are committed to supporting an all-of-the-above energy policy that includes all forms and sources of energy and ensures the protection of our environment.

Again, we appreciate your continued leadership on energy and environmental policies, and we look forward to working with you to promote solutions benefiting all American energy consumers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Holt", with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Holt  
Consumer Energy Alliance